

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT

TOPIC Information from the Kindel Troop Training Grounds

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 5 June 1952REFERENCES PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS

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1. During the period from 6 to 12 May 1952, troops at the Kindel (L 51/H 76) troop training grounds were engaged predominantly in theoretical instruction on tanks and artillery pieces, cross-country driving with tanks and practice in the terrain with individual guns. Small field exercises were conducted only in the afternoons. On 6 May, six tanks practiced in the terrain in the Ettenhausen-Elborn area, and a smoke screen was laid. contrary to the practice in 1951, the troops were strictly forbidden to communicate with the German civilian population. No Germans were employed in the camps. Kitchen work was done by uniformed women.

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2. the units at Kindel came from Halle (L 52/D 92) and Weissenfels (L 52/J 99). Motor vehicles observed in Eisenach and in traffic from and to the troop training grounds

3. On 15 May, the cantonment at Hainzerholz seemed to be occupied to capacity, and almost all quarters were lighted after nightfall. On the same date, only a little activity was noticed in the cantonment at Kindel. The quarters there were not more than 30 percent lighted.

 the prefabricated barracks sections stored

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at the Mechterstaedt sawmill had been hauled to the troop training grounds. The southern section of the road from the station via Saettelstaedt and Mechterstaedt and via Mastrungsfeld, Stienhausen to the training grounds was paved. The enlargement of Highway 84 in the area of the troop training grounds was continued. The highway was blocked to civilian traffic from Grossenluonitz to Grossenbohringen.

In 1951, troops from Halle and Dietleben had been at the troop training grounds but this year they had not yet arrived. these troops would go to the area of Koellieda (N 52/J 49) rather than Kindel.

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* Comment. The present report on the occupation of the Kindel troop training grounds concurs with previous information. Except for some vehicles of various units of the Eighth Gds Army area, the bulk of the vehicles belongs to the 57th Gds Htz Rifle Div and confirms the division there. It was also reported from other troop training grounds that the units were still engaged only in individual training with heavy weapons and small-scale field exercises at about platoon level in May 1952. The information in paragraph 3 is more correct.

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The hauling of prefabricated barracks sections to the troop training grounds and the light occupation of Camp Kindel indicate that more units are expected to arrive at Kindel.

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